GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:71
ANSWERED ON:18.11.2002
SHORTAGE OF CORN
B.K. PARTHASARATHI;GANTA SRINIVASA RAO;GUNIPATI RAMAIAH

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the livestock industry has turned down Government`s offer to provide three lakh tonnes of wheat to overcome the shortage of corn;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government propose to allow increased import of corn under tariff quota regime for the poultry sector;

(d) if not the reasons therefor; and

(e) the measures to be adopted for availability of more corn?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV)

(a)&(b): Yes, Sir. The Representatives of the Poultry Industry had expressed the view that the prevailing Above Poverty Line prices of wheat i.e. Rs.610/- per quintal would not make it viable for them though these rates are substantially lower than the economic cost of wheat.

(c)&(d): No, Sir. Tariff Rate Quota for maize has been increased and fixed to 4,50,000 tons during 2002-2003.

(e): During 9th Plan, Department of Agriculture and Cooperation implemented aCentrally Sponsored Scheme `Accelerated Maize Development Programme` under Technology Mission on oilseeds, pulses and maize in 26 States.Under this scheme financial assistance is provided for adoption of latest technologies, training of farmers/officers and production of good quality seeds. During 10th Plan an integrated scheme on increasing production and productivity of maize is envisaged.